

\$5.00 for an examination? Impossible! Perhaps some bad risks are taken, as a result of cheap and careless examinations, but who cares? It's only a little of the policy holders' money that is paid out; and at any rate, that \$10,000.00 has been saved.

The next annual session of the State Society, to be held in San Francisco, April 17 to 19, 1906, will mark the beginning of the second fifty years of its existence. **THE MEETING NEXT YEAR.** The committee on program has been at work for some time, and has about decided to arrange for the whole week, providing clinics and hospital work for the days not devoted to the official meetings of the Society—Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Dr. Edward Jackson, of Denver, President of the Rocky Mountain and Inter-State Medical Association, suggested a meeting of that Association with our Society at the time of our meeting, to the end that the matter of forming a Pacific Coast branch of the A. M. A. might be discussed and possibly organized. This matter was presented to the Council at its meeting of September 30th, and was approved. The Council indicated Friday, April 20th, as the day for this special session, and instructed the secretary to have the program printed as a part of the regular program of our own meeting. Thus it would appear from the present condition of things, that the third week in April, 1906, will be a memorable one to our members in many ways. The attendance will undoubtedly be large, and the program offered is expected to be very rich in excellent clinical material and carefully arranged symposia.

That highly upright, virtuous proper, honest and enlightened daily publication, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, seems to have undertaken to establish a semi-scientific medical department. **SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE.** In its issue for October 6th, it stated, editorially—and erroneously—that the medical profession of this state endeavored to secure the passage of a bill "to compel persons afflicted with the commonest ailments to procure a prescription, and of course to pay the doctor for prescribing." Referring to "proprietary medicines," it says: "Utterly disregarding the fact that a large number of proprietary medicines [the *Chronicle* undoubtedly means nostrums advertised and sold direct to the laity, for certainly the philanthropic *Chronicle* would not devote its valuable space to a question of purely medical interest and one which did not affect its pocket] are prepared according to formulas which they could not improve upon if they tried, and fully aware that these remedies for the minor and less complicated ills would prove fully as efficacious as any they could prescribe, they persistently seek to proscribe the sale of all patent medicines. Of course the pretense is that the sole object is to guard the

public against the use of pernicious drugs." Now, why does the *Chronicle* make such a bitter and uncalled-for arraignment of the medical profession? Might it possibly be explained if, in the business office of the *Chronicle*, there are a number of contracts bearing this phrase: "It is mutually agreed that this contract is void, if any law is enacted by your State restricting or prohibiting the manufacture or sale of proprietary medicines"?*

The general tone of exalted self-esteem with which the editor of the *Medical Record* disdainfully remarks, that its advertising pages are never referred to in the editorial pages, is almost killingly funny. It reminds one strongly of the highly edifying ostrich who buries his head in the sand to avoid the disagreeable incident of being found. But the *Record* has been found out, and its policy of silent contempt will hardly answer. It has disclosed its perfect willingness to take your money for subscription, and then to permit its advertisers to ridicule your national organization in its advertising pages—which are editorially ignored. Of course they are ignored; if the gentlemen in the editorial department did not ignore them, it would be disastrous to editorial dignity. The correspondence between the editor of the *Journal A. M. A.* and the editor of the *Medical Record* is published on another page, and is well worth your attention.

In its issue for October 7th, *Collier's Weekly* began the series of articles by Mr. Adams, revealing the inside rottenness of the nostrum fraud, not only as affecting the general public, but also as it concerns the nostrums exploited to and through the medical profession. These articles should be read by every physician who takes the slightest interest in his profession or in professional decency. It is almost impossible to quote from them without distinct loss, and we have not space to reprint them entirely, though we should be delighted to do so. Mr. Adams shows how the unspeakable nostrum makers practically own and control the newspapers of the country, and through them the state legislatures, and then refers to similar bondage of medical publications. He says: "One might expect from the medical press freedom from such influences. The control is as complete, though exercised by a class of nostrums somewhat differently exploited, but essentially the same. * * * 'Syrup of Figs,' for instance, which makes widespread pretense in the dailies to be an extract of the fig, advertises in the medical journals for what it is, a preparation of senna. Antikamnia * * * for a long time exploited itself to the profession by a campaign of ridiculous extravagance, and is to-day by the extent of its reckless use on the part of ignorant laymen a public menace. * * * There are to-day very few medical publications which do not

*This is the clause referred to as the "Magic Red Clause," by Mr. Samuel Hopkins Adams in *Collier's*, October 7, 1905.